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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Application No.: 09/994,526  
Applicant(s): Akira TSUBOUCHI, Kiyoshi OKUBO and Yasushi  
WATANABE  
For: HOLLOW RACK SHAFT AND MANUFACTURING  
METHOD THEREOF  
Confirmation No.: 8523  
Customer No.: 24731  
Docket No.: 18733/00070  
Filed: November 27, 2001  
Group Art Unit: 3683  
Examiner: Devon C. Kramer

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GROUP 3600

MAIL STOP AF  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: **MAIL STOP AF**, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on

January 16, 2004

Date of Deposit

Brian E. Harris

Name of Applicant, Assignee, or Registered Representative

Signature

January 16, 2004

Date of Signature

**AMENDMENT**

This Amendment is filed in response to the Office Action dated October 16, 2003, which provides for a response period ending January 16, 2004.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks** begin on page 4 of this paper.

Please amend the above-identified application as follows: